

REMARKS

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated February 28, 2006, and reconsideration of that Action is requested in view of the following comments.

A petition for a three-month extension of time accompanies this response together with the appropriate fee. Accordingly, the deadline for responding to the Office Action has been extended until August 28, 2006, and this response is therefore timely filed since it was deposited in the mail for First Class Delivery Service on the date certified on the front page hereof.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention defined in the pending claims is neither shown nor suggested by the applied prior art. Specifically claims 1-5 and 10-18 are not rendered obvious by the combination of Haghiri et al US 5,888,624 ("Haghiri") and Ludwig et al US 2002/0022143 ("Ludwig") and claims 6-8 are not rendered obvious by Haghiri, Ludwig and Fraser et al US 4,855,583, for the following reasons.

Applicant is in complete agreement with the Examiner that Haghiri fails to teach or suggest that the adhesion between the seal and the paper core is stronger than the cohesion within the paper core and/or stronger than the adhesion between the layers of the paper core as specifically set forth in the pending claims.

As disclosed in the specification on page 8, lines 17-22, the seal according to the invention will inevitably destroy the paper core and thereby also destroy the image arranged on the paper core, should someone try to remove the seal.

The effect can according to specification page 8, lines 14-15 be enhanced, if the seal covers a security feature and/or the recess in which the chip is accommodated. Further advantages are found if the chip does not cover the complete surface of the card, but is at least 5% smaller (see specification page 8, lines 24-28).

Even a seal which covers the whole surface makes tampering very difficult because the seal of the invention will not smoothly separate from the paper core, but will tear the paper core apart in an irregular way. The resulting irregular and rough surface prevents cementing the card again without visible damage after e.g. the card or the chip have been manipulated.

This effect is enforced by the preferred embodiment of the invention where the seal does not cover the whole surface. In this case parts in the paper core remain intact whereas other parts are ruptured thereby preventing cementing the card again without visible damage. A further improvement is possible if the seal covers a security feature and/or the recess in which the chip is accommodated.

These embodiments of the present invention provide security features that are not suggested by Haghiri. These remarkable security features provide an identity card with a very high anti-counterfeiting security. Such security is a demanding task because of the sophisticated means used to tamper with and/or alter security cards.

Ludwig describes a separable adhesive layer that may be one layer or preferably a co-extruded layer. This adhesive layer is among others useful to secure cards such as credit cards to a backing made of paper, cardboard or plastic. It is also useful to supply self-adhesive films like those that are attached to truck surfaces for advertising

purposes. The cards as well as the films are referred by Ludwig as "information carriers".

From the disclosure a person skilled in the art will know, that the invention of Ludwig is useful, if e.g. a card is send by letter, where it is adhesively fixed to the paper with the writing. The adhesive of Ludwig is chosen to fix the card in a secure way during the transport (shipping), but allows separation of the card without damage from the adhesive and thereby also from the paper. Although the adhesive has a considerably stronger bonding to the backing layer (e.g. to the transport paper), there is no disclosure in Ludwig, that it should have a stronger bonding than the cohesion within the paper. The only purpose of Ludwig is to provide an adhesive layer that allows one to fix and then separate a card from a backing material without damage of the card and without residues of the adhesive remaining on the card. Unlike the present invention, the card as such is not modified by the invention of Ludwig et al.

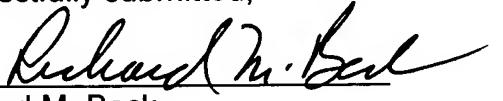
A person skilled in the art would not have combined Haghiri and Ludwig to modify an identity card to arrive at the present invention. If one had nevertheless combined Haghiri and Ludwig, e.g. to fix the seal of the present invention to the paper core, with the seal having the stronger bonding to the adhesive (as suggested by the examiner), the effect would be counterproductive. According to the invention of Ludwig, "it must be possible to detach the information carrier from the backing (in this example the seal) in a manner that is simple, convenient and **guaranteed not to cause damage**. Adhesive residues must not remain on the information carrier". This is contrary to the present invention, where such damage has been found to improve the anti-counterfeiting security.

Accordingly, the present invention is not rendered obvious by Haghiri in combination with Ludwig and it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Fraser does not address the above explained deficiencies of the Haghiri/Ludwig combination, and therefore claims 6-8 also distinguish over the applied art for the same reasons.

In summary claims 1-8 and 10-18 define patentable subject matter and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Richard M. Beck

Registration No.: 22,580
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1007 North Orange Street
P.O. Box 2207
Wilmington, Delaware 19899
(302) 658-9141
(302) 658-5614 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

483306